

TOWN COUNCIL WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

September 10, 2015

TRO Volume 23, No. 37

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, September 14th, Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee, 4:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Monday, September 14th, Golf Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m., Spicer House
- Tuesday, September 15th, Town Council Finance Committee Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Tuesday, September 15th, Town Council, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Wednesday, September 16th, the Town Council Public Safety Committee has been cancelled.
- Thursday, September 17th, Permanent School Building Committee, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1

HARVEST ART FEST

Groton Public Library is pleased to be hosting the 7th annual community art exhibit, Harvest Art Fest 2015. Southeastern Connecticut artists are encouraged to submit their art work from September 20th through September 27th for display during the month of October. There will be an opening reception held on October 1st from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please see the Attachment 1 for more information.

OTHER ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 2 is an invitation from the Groton Police Department to attend the appointment ceremony of Louis J. "L.J." Fusaro, Jr. on September 15th at 3:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center.

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation (August)

- Staff attended a site visit of Fitch Middle School to discuss space needs for recreation programs once William Seely is closed.
- Staff met with a town engineer to review potential trail projects in preparation of developing a schedule of Capital Improvement Projects.
- Staff is working on a letter of intent for the submission of a Letz Environmental Grant, which will fund the development of a butterfly habitat restoration project and observation deck within Copp Family Park.
- Staff completed and submitted an Inland Wetlands application for the relocation of the playground at Woods Walk Park.
- The Fall 2015 edition of Discover was printed and delivered to households in Groton.
- The Boating Advisory Board met to discuss a visioning for Spicer Park.
- Enrollment this year in summer day camps had a 23% decline while enrollments in the specialty and sports camps grew by 9%. Overall revenue for day camps increased over the prior year as a result of the large registration fee increase that was implemented this year.
- The Senior Center provided 394 rides for 69 individuals.
- The Coastal Café provided 1,352 meals and generated revenue of \$6,201.90.

MRO/lh

groton public library
7th annual community art exhibit
harvest art fest 2015
october 1st-31st

southeastern ct artists are invited to submit their works from sunday september 20th-sunday september 27th. artists may submit one piece of matted and/or framed work ready for display. three-dimensional artwork is also accepted and will be placed for display in locked cases.

name _____

address _____

phone _____

email _____

medium _____

title _____

submission of work implies acceptance of exhibit policy. entries are submitted at the exhibitor's own risk. the exhibitor will not hold the library, town of groton, individual staff, or board members responsible for any damage.

signature _____

received on _____

by _____

call for
artists

the groton public library is now accepting
artwork submissions of all media

harvest art fest 2015

opening reception october 1, 2015

6:30-7:30pm





*The Town of Groton Police Department
cordially invites you to attend
the ceremony for the appointment of
Chief Louis J. "L.J." Fusaro, Jr.
Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.
Groton Senior Center
102 Newtown Road
Groton, CT 06340.*

PARKS AND RECREATION



Directors Report *August*

Planning/Coordination

Attended a site visit of Fitch Middle School to discuss space needs for the Recreation Department once William Seely is closed. • Met with town engineer to review potential trail projects in preparation of developing a schedule of CIP projects. • Attended a grant workshop that reviewed various grant opportunities.

Marketing/Promotion

Met with staff to discuss changing the printing schedule of "Discover".

Communications

Personnel

Weekly meetings with division supervisors • Biweekly and monthly meetings with department staff • Daily meeting with Parks Chief Groundskeeper • Working with Department Heads to create a revised PT Pay Plan • Attending United Steel Worker Union contract negotiations.

Projects

Working on a Letter of Intent for the submission of a Letz Environmental Grant. The grant would fund the development of a butterfly habitat restoration project and observation deck and educational displays within the Copp Family Park.

Assisting Senior Center Supervisor with a grant through the Groton Parks Foundation. The grant would help fund the development of a Walk With Ease program, designed to address the need for an introductory fitness program for persons who have not been exercising as well as proper instruction for those who have joint problems and may avoid exercising.

Completed and submitted Inland Wetlands Application for the relocation of the playground at Woods Walk Park.

Attended a site visit to review work completed on the trails in the Copp Family Park.

Marketing August

Program Marketing

The Fall 2015 edition of Discover was printed and delivered to households in Groton. To promote the season's selection of programs, a series of targeted emails were sent through our registration database to inform previous participants about new programs starting. Program registration was also promoted heavily through Facebook and on GrotonRec.com. Registration began on August 14 and through the end of the month there were 722 registrations totaling over \$46,000.

A series of images showcasing particular programs and their benefits have been used to promote different types of programs, including the ones below for dance and karate:



Social Media Engagement

As part of the online promotion for the 2015 Mixed Doubles 10K Relay, Facebook fans were invited to participate in a vote for the shirt colors for men and women. After narrowing it down to 2, a final vote led to the winners: orange for men and purple for women. This will be the first race where we will have separate men's and women's shirts.

In the News

An article on the growth of the Summer SoundWaves Concert Series was featured in The New London Day newspaper, focusing on the improvements made to the concert series and the promotional success of the 2015 series. Attendance and parking revenue increased this year over 2014 totals.

Senior Center Supervisor, Mary Jo Riley, was quoted in an article in The Day about worker thefts from local seniors' homes.

A press release about the Groton Parks Foundation grant opportunities was featured in The Day, The Norwich Bulletin, and The Dolphin newspapers.

Recreation *August*

Service to Community

Various summer camps ended with some interesting differences from prior years. Enrollments in summer day camps were down significantly as preliminary numbers indicate a 23% decline. At the same time, enrollments in specialty and sport camps grew by 9%. From a revenue standpoint, overall revenues for day camp increased over the prior year despite the lower enrollments as a result of the large fee increase that was implemented. Information is being gathered to try to more fully understand the changes, but the concern is that the department may not be fully serving residents of the community who have less of an ability to pay.

Facility Initiatives

The Boating Advisory Board met to discuss a visioning for Spicer Park. Members of the board agreed that they see Spicer Park as a long-term home to various boating activities and that they see it as a facility with a vast amount of opportunity that can benefit the community. The Boating Advisory Board is interested in being involved in any discussions about the future of Spicer Park. The board may try to put information together for the purposes of making a presentation to the Town Council.

Social Justice

Chrissy Post and Lisa Tomasco, athletes on Groton's Special Olympics team competed at the World Special Olympics in Los Angeles in unified golf, where they won a Silver Medal! Chrissy and Lisa take alternate shots to get their score. Chrissy has been a long-time participant in our Thursday night Special Recreation program and she participates in unified golf, bowling, basketball, snowshoeing, and tennis. She works at TJMAXX restocking shelves and unpacking and organizing shipments. Lisa volunteers in bowling and basketball in addition to golf. She works at Pfizer as the Senior Manager in Global Procurement supporting Worldwide Medicinal Chemistry Scientific Services. Chrissy and Lisa were two of the four people from Connecticut who participated in the games.



It was inspiring to witness how Special Olympics and Unified Sports has made a difference in so many lives. Everyone was treated equal with inclusion and respect. ~ Lisa Thomsasco

Senior Center *August*

Foster Health and Wellness

- Summer session ended August 28. 36 programs were held with over 455 persons participating.
- Zumba Toning Free Trial class was held on August 31.
- OATS Group met for a Hike at Bluff Point on August 26 – 12 hikers
- The following clinics were held in July: Massage Therapy – 16; Foot Care Clinics – 16 people; Blood Pressure clinic – 106 people



Coordinate Benefits Assistance/Services

- Outreach Visits - Carol did outreach presentation on August 13 at Mystic River Homes Congregate; Ahepa had 2 visitors visit on Monday, August 24; visitors from Poquonnock Village, Pequot Village and Grasso Gardens as well as played the Price is Right on August 25 – 20 people
- Benefits Check-up: 7 seniors; CHOICES: 4 seniors

Encourage Senior Independence

- Provided 394 rides for 69 individuals •The Coastal Café provided 1352 meals and generated revenue of \$6201.90. •Benefits Check Up done for 7 clients.
- Boot Camp for Boomers' on August 11, Dr Zeevi talked on Stroke Outcomes and Recovery – 16 people attended.
- AARP Safe Driving Course was held on August 28 – 17 attendees

Create Community Connections

- Entertainment Showcase was held on Friday, August 7, 20 entertainers and 55 registered guest
- Walgreen's Bingo very well attended on Thursday, August 27 with Fairview, Academy Point, Groton Regency (9 client visiting) and participating; Windham Falls brought 19 client to visit
- Volunteer 462.92 hours by 27 individuals
- Elegant Dinner Deliveries were delivered on August 17 – meals donated by Bayou Smokehouse and Groton Townhouse; Two volunteer drivers delivered the meals

Trips

- Plymouth Whale Watch, August 8, 2015 – 25 people
- Clark Art Institute with Van Gogh Exhibit, August 25, 2015 – 24 people
- Hello Dolly at the Warner Theatre, May 3, 2015 – 6 people

Projects

- Meeting on Souper Bowl fund raiser event to be held on February 6, 2016. Bowls have been ordered and staff are working on sports memorabilia to auction.
- The center has applied for a Groton Parks Foundation grant for the Arthritis Foundation Walk with Ease program.
- The Center is working with 8 other towns in the county on a regional interactive webpage.
- The Center has become Silver & Fit certified which will allow some seniors to receive insurance reimbursement for fitness programs. This is to counter the seniors who have left programs due to Silver Sneakers. Staff are working on instituting this program

Parks *August*

Resource Protection

Trail clearing in Beebe Pond and Pequot Woods.

Tree removal at Rhonda Drive, open space, Poquonnock Plains Park, Spicer House, Esker Point, Mystic Academy open space.

Remove leaves and branches from Fieldcrest open space, Route 1 sidewalk, PPP, Annex, Library, Smith House, Woodcrest open space, Copp, Police, Deerfield open space, after freak storm.

Repair Noank Dock and Spicer House dock.

Cut brush at Library, Smith House, Woodcrest, Mystic Academy and Copp Property.

Preventative Maintenance

Inspect playgrounds.

Rake out playgrounds and add mulch at Bel Aire, Wolfbrook, Stanton Farms, Judson Ave.

Ongoing Maintenance

Tasks that are completed on a daily, weekly or seasonal basis including: mowing and trimming, parks athletic fields, cemeteries and public buildings. Landscaping, lining and grooming ball fields, trash collection, leaf removal and sidewalk snow removal.

Shennecossett Golf *August*

Contribute to Economic Development

The course hosted one outside outing during August.

Marketing/Promotion

We have offered a promotion for twenty 9 hole plays (or two can be combined for an 18 hole round) for \$300; so far we have sold 36 of them.

Course Operations

Several irrigation system repairs were completed this month; the check valve in the backflow preventer in the pump station was replaced as well.

Tees were fertilized. Greens, tees and fairways were treated with fungicide.

Todd has been conducting weekly clinics for ladies, men, and juniors. He is now offering a series of lessons for beginners call "Learn to Play Golf with a Friend".

The 2015 Men's Champion is Steve Chevalier. The 2015 Ladies Champion is Margaret Hirsch. Revenue this August was \$116,182 greens fees, \$40,895 cart fees, \$265 season pass fees, and \$2,900 Par4 rent, for a total of \$160,242. There were 3 days with rain, and 0 days closed.

Last August had \$120,575 greens fees, \$40,156 cart fees, \$6,220 season pass fees, and \$2,800 Par4 rent, for a total of \$169,751. There were 2 days with rain, and 0 days closed.

Projects

Design for restoring bunkers on hole 13 is complete. Awaiting approval form the State so we can schedule this project.

URI has been conducted some research on annual bluegrass weevils at the course.